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municipalities, the growing disinclination to accept municipal office with its grievous burdens. "If a man," says Gibbon, "were called to fix the period in the history of the world during which the condition of the human race was most happy and prosperous, he would without hesitation name that which elapsed from the death of Domitian to the accession of Commodus." "It is in this very period," says Liebenam, "that municipal decay begins." The book ends with an interesting discussion of the alleged grounds for Rome's decay.

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The Right to the Whole Produce of Labor. By DR. ANTON MENDER, Professor of Jurisprudence in the University of Vienna. Translated by M. E. Tanner, with an Introduction and Bibliography by H. S. Foxwell, M. A., Professor of Economics at University College, London. Pp. cxviii and 271. Price, \$2.00. London: Macmillan & Co., 1899.

The task which Professor Anton Menger has set himself in this and other essays is one, the importance of which cannot easily be overestimated. It is the application of jurisprudence to the study of economic and social questions. Professor Menger, as a jurist profoundly interested in the development of society, endeavors to add to the fullness of our knowledge by a critical examination of what many have regarded as the central demand of modern socialism, viz.: the right of labor to the entire industrial product, and he conducts his examination from the legal point of view.

It is proposed, he argues, to reconstruct modern society in such manner that the man who toils may receive all that is produced, making no abatement from the product for interest or rent. The demand of the socialist, which Professor Menger examines, is that individually unearned income shall cease to exist. This postulate, if we conceived it realized in society, signifies a society resting on an entirely new foundation of law and justice.

Professor Menger opens his book with these words: "The social aspirations of our time aim essentially at a reorganization of the economic life of mankind. They start, it is true, from a searching criticism of our existing economic conditions; but this criticism leads to certain juridical postulates which involve an organic reconstruction of our actual rights of property."

If socialism proposes an organic reconstruction of our actual rights of property, it is of the first importance that a trained jurist

should give it a critical examination from his point of view, and this is precisely what Professor Menger undertakes. Professor Menger, applying the critical methods of jurisprudence to the examination of socialist programs discovers a legal demand for "the whole produce of labor." But alongside of this demand he finds another legal demand, which makes the claim that all human needs should be satisfied in proportion to the available economic means of satisfaction. Let us suppose both claims examined in a court of law; and what is the result? Manifestly one or the other must be thrown out. "Any attempt to carry to a logical conclusion the idea of the laborer's right to the whole produce of his labor is immediately confronted with the numerous persons who are incapable of work (children, the aged and invalids, etc.), and who must depend for the satisfaction of their wants on unearned income."

The two principles lead to different results, and these two principles are generally found coexisting in socialistic systems, bringing into them contradictions and many inconsistencies. When wants are made the standard of division, the right to the whole produce of labor is pushed into the background; but it is possible to introduce wants to a limited extent, as in the claim for a recognized "right to subsistence." Such a claim in a very narrow way is recognized even now in our poor law. This "right to subsistence" is examined by our author, as is also the demand for the recognition of a "right to labor;" that is to say, the right not to seek employment, but the right to demand that an opportunity to labor be furnished. This, it is shown, is essentially a compromise of rights, being something between existing rights and socialism.

Professor Menger, in this little book, undertakes a critical examination of modern socialism in England, France and Germany, with reference to the attitude assumed towards these various rights, and strangely enough, as it will seem to most persons, he finds the greatest originality among the early English socialists, and imputes large borrowing if not downright plagiarism to the great German leaders, Rodbertus and Marx. To William Thompson he ascribes a remarkable position, in these words: "So much of the socialist philosophy as centres in the right to the whole produce of labor is completely expounded in the writings of William Thompson. From his works the later socialists, the Saint-Simonians, Proudhon, and above all, Marx and Rodbertus, have directly or indirectly drawn their opinions. And yet modern historical works take but little notice of a writer who is the most eminent founder of scientific socialism."

While most students will gladly recognize the historical service which Professor Menger has rendered in the attention which he has

called to the early English socialists and in his description of their work, there are comparatively few competent judges who will not feel that he has gone too far in disparagement of the Germans and too far also in the scientific merits which he ascribes to the English writers, whom he examines. The present reviewer would also say that in his opinion Professor Menger has elsewhere met with larger success in the study of social problems from the standpoint of jurisprudence ; especially has our author succeeded better in his critical examination of the new German civil code from the standpoint of the poorer and propertyless classes.

Praise must in generous measure be accorded Professor Foxwell for his historical introduction and his full bibliography. We hope for further work along the lines of the present volume, both by Professor Menger and Professor Foxwell.

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Dictionary of Political Economy. Edited by R. H. INGLIS PALGRAVE, F. R. S. 3 vols. 1894-99, London and New York : The Macmillan Co. Vol. 1, A-E, 1894, pp. xvi, 800; vol. 2, F-M, 1896, pp. xvi, 848; vol. 3, N-Z, 1899, pp. xxii, 762: with index to all three volumes and list of contributors. Price, \$6.50 per volume.

Within the limits of the ordinary book review it is impossible to describe or criticise with any fullness the twelve years' labors of the editor of the new English "Dictionary of Political Economy." It is worth while, however, to attempt to point out the relation of the result to other works accessible to students in this field and to indicate some of its chief merits and limitations. It is primarily a dictionary and not an encyclopedia. Thus it defines a large number of words, terms, and technical phrases found in current economic literature, gives a host of very brief articles and notes illustrating the various attempts to apply economic theory to business life, trade, government and education, and makes a special feature of bibliographical references, in several languages, to serve as an index to the best literature now influencing the development of economic theory and practice in Europe and America. Six years have elapsed between the publication of the first and the third volumes, and yet, while bibliographies soon become antiquated, for many years to come these volumes will be a useful source of reference by reason of the excellent judgment displayed in the concise statement of all shades of current opinion with a summary of its historical development and a remarkably satisfactory sense of proportion in selecting that which is